

Serial No. 10/025,214

Docket No.: KCC-15,750

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent structure, comprising:
an absorbent core; and
an absorbent wrap including [[a]] at least 5% binder material mixed with an throughout a fibrous absorbent material such that the absorbent fibers are stabilized by the binder material, the absorbent wrap fully surrounding the absorbent core and overlapping at least a portion of the absorbent wrap, the absorbent wrap providing at least 20% of a total absorbent capacity of the absorbent structure.
2. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent core comprises an air-formed absorbent material.
3. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent core comprises an absorbent material selected from the group consisting of air-formed pulp fluff; a mixture of pulp fluff and superabsorbent; a mixture of pulp fluff and a polymer; a mixture of pulp fluff and hot melt spray adhesive; a mixture of pulp fluff and thermoplastic binder fibers; a mixture of pulp fluff, superabsorbent and binder fibers; coform; and combinations thereof.
4. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent core comprises between 0% and about 10% by weight binder material.
5. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent core comprises between 0% and about 15% by weight superabsorbent material.

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6. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 5, wherein the superabsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of particulates, fibers, films, foams, non-ionic superabsorbents, polyacrylate superabsorbents, and combinations thereof.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the binder material is selected from the group consisting of meltblown polymer, thermoplastic binder fibers, liquid-sprayable binding agents, and combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent wrap comprises a coform material of a pulp and a meltblown polymer mixture.

10. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent wrap provides at least 25% of a total absorbent capacity of the absorbent structure.

11. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent wrap provides at least 30% of a total absorbent capacity of the absorbent structure.

12. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent core is zoned for greater absorbent capacity within a central portion of the absorbent core and lower absorbent capacity within end regions of the absorbent core.

13. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent core is segmented within the absorbent wrap.

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14. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent structure is embossed.

15. (Original) Swimwear comprising the absorbent structure of Claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) An absorbent structure, comprising:
an absorbent core including a mixture of superabsorbent material and meltblown fibers; and

an absorbent wrap including [[a]] at least 5% binder material mixed with an throughout a fibrous absorbent material such that the absorbent fibers are stabilized by the binder material, the absorbent wrap fully surrounding the absorbent core and overlapping at least a portion of the absorbent wrap;

the absorbent structure having an absorbent wrap to inner core absorbency ratio of at least 0.2.

17. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the mixture of superabsorbent material and meltblown fibers comprises a coform material.

18. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the meltblown fibers comprise an elastomeric material.

19. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the absorbent core further comprises pulp fluff.

20. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 19, wherein the absorbent core comprises between about 30% and about 55% pulp fluff, by weight of the absorbent core.

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21. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 19, wherein the absorbent core comprises between about 35% and about 50% pulp fluff, by weight of the absorbent core.

22. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the absorbent core further comprises a surfactant.

23. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the absorbent core comprises between 0% and about 10% by weight binder material.

24. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the absorbent core comprises up to about 15% by weight superabsorbent material.

25. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the superabsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of particulates, fibers, films, foams, non-ionic superabsorbents, polyacrylate superabsorbents, and combinations thereof.

Claim 26 (Canceled)

27. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the binder material is selected from the group consisting of meltblown polymer, thermoplastic binder fibers, liquid-sprayable binding agents, and combinations thereof.

28. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the absorbent wrap comprises a coform material of a pulp and a meltblown polymer mixture.

29. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, comprising an absorbent wrap to inner core absorbency ratio of at least 0.3.

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30. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, comprising an absorbent wrap to inner core absorbency ratio of at least 0.4.

31. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the absorbent core is zoned for greater absorbent capacity within a central portion of the absorbent core and lower absorbent capacity within end regions of the absorbent core.

32. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the absorbent core is segmented within the absorbent wrap.

33. (Original) The absorbent structure of Claim 16, wherein the absorbent structure is embossed.

34. (Original) Swimwear comprising the absorbent structure of Claim 16.

35. (Currently Amended) An absorbent swimwear garment, comprising:

a chassis defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings, the chassis including a body side liner, an outer cover, and an absorbent structure between the body side liner and the outer cover;

the absorbent structure including an absorbent core and an absorbent wrap, the absorbent wrap surrounding the absorbent core and overlapping at least a portion of the absorbent wrap, the absorbent wrap including a mixture of ~~[[an]]~~ a fibrous absorbent material ~~and a~~ stabilized with at least 5% binder material and providing at least 20% of a total absorbent capacity of the absorbent structure.

36. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the absorbent core comprises an air-formed absorbent material.

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37. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the absorbent core comprises an absorbent material selected from the group consisting of air-formed pulp fluff; a mixture of pulp fluff and superabsorbent; a mixture of pulp fluff and a polymer; a mixture of pulp fluff and hot melt spray adhesive; a mixture of pulp fluff and thermoplastic binder fibers; a mixture of pulp fluff, superabsorbent and binder fibers; coform; and combinations thereof.

38. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the absorbent core comprises between 0% and about 10% by weight binder material.

39. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the absorbent core comprises between 0% and about 15% by weight superabsorbent material.

40. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the superabsorbent material is selected from the group consisting of particulates, fibers, films, foams, non-ionic superabsorbents, polyacrylate superabsorbents, and combinations thereof.

Claim 41 (Canceled)

42. (Original) The garment of Claim 41, wherein the binder material is selected from the group consisting of meltblown polymer, thermoplastic binder fibers, liquid-sprayable binding agents, and combinations thereof.

43. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the absorbent wrap comprises a coform material of a pulp and a meltblown polymer mixture.

44. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the absorbent wrap provides at least 25% of a total absorbent capacity of the absorbent structure.

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45. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the absorbent wrap provides at least 30% of a total absorbent capacity of the absorbent structure.

46. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the absorbent core is zoned for greater absorbent capacity within a central portion of the absorbent core and lower absorbent capacity within end regions of the absorbent core.

47. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the absorbent core is segmented within the absorbent wrap.

48. (Original) The garment of Claim 35, wherein the absorbent structure is embossed.